

REND YOUR HEARTS

ENTRANCE Russian Lord have Mercycontinued for a while as a mantra

GREETING

Celebrant: Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord,
your God (Jl 2.13)

All: Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts and humble
themselves before him (Sir 2.17)

PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray:
O God, from whose creative heart all things have come, hear
the prayer of your people who this day pour out their hearts
to you. Be pleased to send us your Spirit so that during the
reading of the Scriptures we may be able to hear you speak to
us heart to heart. And may that word prompt us to rend our
hearts and return to you. Mindful of the heart of your own
Son, we make our prayer through him.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST THEME: The Promise of a Heart

READING

Lector: A Reading from the prophet Ezekiel (Ez. 36.23b-27)

RESPONSE

Lector: The crucible for silver, and the furnace for gold,
but the tester of hearts is the Lord. (Prv.17.3)

All: Let us reach out our hearts toward God in heaven!(Lam.3.41)

Lector: I, the Lord, alone probe the mind and test the heart. (Jer.17.10)

All: Let us reach out our hearts toward God in heaven!

Lector: Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance
but the Lord looks into the heart. (1 Sm.16.7)

All: Let us reach out our hearts toward God in heaven!

Lector: All the ways of a man may be right in his own eyes, but it is
the Lord who proves hearts. (Prv.21.2)

All: Let us reach out our hearts toward God in heaven!

SECOND THEME: The Piercing of a Heart

READING

Celebrant: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn.19.31-37)

RESPONSE

Lector: Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness (Heb.9.22)

All: It is in Christ and through his blood that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven. (Eph.1.7)

Lector: He entered the sanctuary not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, and achieved eternal redemption (Heb.9.12)

All: It is in Christ and through his blood that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven.

Lector: Realize that you were delivered from the futile way of life not by any diminishable sum of silver or gold, but by Christ's blood beyond all price (1 Pt.1.18-19)

All: It is in Christ and through his blood that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven.

Lector: Through his blood, God made him the means of expiation for all who believe (Rom.3.25)

All: It is in Christ and through his blood that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven.

READING Sojourners April 1990 p.12 For We Have Sinned

During a forced flight, a community takes time for confession

We arrived at a rocky slope covered with brush after walking in ravines and along rough paths for three days. Two members of the pastoral team invited us to give thanks to God for having saved us from the enemy and to recall our sins. We began by making the sign of the cross. Then Juan, who is one of the community's catechists, asked us to recall our personal sins. At first there was silence. Then an elderly woman spoke. "The enemy is killing us." Juan answered, "Yes, that is terrible. But right now let us think about our own sins, those we committed while fleeing." There was more silence until a child said, "Fear." "It's true that we have been afraid," Juan said. "But fear is not a sin. We sin if we give up because of fear, if we lose hope that God is with us." Gradually all of us became calm. We quietly reflected on our sins. After a short while someone said, "I didn't want to bury the dead." All of us had felt the same. While we were fleeing, some people who had been killed had been left unburied. One person said, "But the bodies really stank." The children laughed. But Juan replied, "Children, think about how terrible it is to have so many dead bodies and no one to bury them. There are no cemeteries here. It becomes an act of mercy just to bury our dead." Someone else said, "Some of us had a little bread and others did not. Many people hid their bread even though they saw other people going hungry." We continued to recall selfish things that we had done - our sins - and we asked God to forgive us, singing, "Lord, have mercy on your people."

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, 'I confess my faults to the Lord,' and you took away the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 32:5)

SILENT EXAMINATION OF THE HEART